

## A PRELATE'S PALACE.

NEW HOME OF THE BISHOP OF BROOKLYN.

A SPLENDID EDIFICE ERECTED BESIDE THE SITE OF THE NEW CATHEDRAL.

One of the finest Episcopal residences in this country is just being completed in Brooklyn and will be occupied by Bishop Loughlin in a short time. Brooklyn has not become possessed of a remarkable number of fine public buildings, although every year sees additions to the architectural ornaments of the city. The most notable of these in the past few years has been this solid and substantial granite edifice erected at Green and Clermont aves, for the accommodation of the Bishop and his staff of priests in one of the largest dioceses in the country. It has cost about \$100,000, and in the very simplicity of the design and finish no dollar has been squandered for mere show, but everything in the building contributes to the use which is subordinate to beauty. But this does not detract from the fine effect produced by the massive edifice, which surpasses in size any in this city. The massive granite walls extend sixty feet in Clermont-avenue, where the main entrance is situated, and for about ninety feet in Green-avenue, the building being in the form of an L, and they are seventy feet high.

GROWTH OF THE DIOCESE.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Brooklyn, including that city and the rest of Long Island, is one of the strongest in the country, and Bishop Loughlin has been at its head since it was organized in 1853. There were then fourteen churches and a like number of priests, and one parochial school. The now venerable prelate has seen it grow until it contains 117 churches, 162 priests, fifty-nine parochial schools, thirty-seven seminaries and select schools, nine asylums, four hospitals, two colleges, two industrial schools, two homes for the aged poor, one home for invalids and one home for novices—several millions of dollars are annually contributed for the enormous work of all these institutions, over them all Bishop Loughlin exercises supervisory care, and he is still bold and hearty despite his more than three-score years and ten, and he scorns the idea of having an assistant to aid him in his work. In addition to his other work, he preaches frequently and he has charge individually of St. James's parish, the church of which is the temporary cathedral in a modest double house on the opposite side of Jay-st. from this church the Bishop has lived since he assumed spiritual and temporal direction of the diocese. He clings to his long-time home, and is unwilling to remove to the new palace, which has been practically complete for some time.

The scheme for its construction originated with Vicar-General Keegan, although it forms part of the general plan for the new cathedral to occupy the block bounded by Green, Clermont, Lafayette and Vanderbilt aves. The only part of the design yet carried out is the construction of a chapel and of the episcopal residence. The main cathedral, to cost upward of a million and a half of dollars, remains as it was a dozen years ago, when the walls stopped at a height of about twenty feet. The Bishop's home, like the other cathedral structures, is built of New-Hampshire gray granite, trimmed with white granite, and is three stories in height, with a basement and a mansard roof. The exterior is plain save for the entrances. The main one is in the middle of the Clermont-avenue front. This consists of a portico twenty-five feet high, the approach to which is up eleven broad steps of granite, with three landings. The portico is eighteen feet wide in its outer portion, with fourteen feet as its width within. The roof is supported by massive polished granite pillars, and on its front is elaborate tracery work cut in the stone. The ceiling is of polished granite, and the side walls of the portico are inlaid with panels of green, gray, black, and variegated granite. The massive doors are of solid oak, twelve feet in height and richly carved. The hinges are of antique bronze of medieval design, and bronze studs adorn the doors. On the Green-avenue side is a second entrance of simple design, for the use of the priests attached to the cathedral staff. The Clermont-avenue front has rounded Gothic arches for the windows, and the rest of the building there are only straight lines.

SIMPLE TASTE SHOWN IN THE INTERIOR.

The same simple and severe taste shown in the exterior is maintained in the interior. The walls of the first story are eighteen feet in height. The main hall runs back about forty feet. It is finished in polished oak, and panelled with forty different varieties of marble, ranging through many shades of color. An inlaid mosaic floor and frescoed ceiling complete this part of the building.

The apartments opening out of the main hall are to be used as reception-rooms and back of them will be the Bishop's study, a private chapel and an office for business. A corridor from the Green-avenue entrance runs into the hall, and from it a second hall extends through the Green-avenue, from which open the reception-rooms of the various priests on the staff of the Bishop. These rooms are finished in mahogany. In the basement is a spacious dining room, 60 by 22 feet in size, furnished with oaken chairs and tables, and adjoining are the kitchen and other necessary rooms. The second door is devoted to sleeping apartments, and two fine suites of rooms are in the front of the office, one for the resident Bishop and the other for visiting prelates. An oratory is in front, over the main hall. There are rooms for five priests besides the Bishop and Vicar-General on this floor, each having a parlor and a bedroom.

ROOM FOR A LARGE LIBRARY.

The chief feature of the upper part of the building, however, is the immense library-room on the third floor. It is 56 feet long by 22 feet wide, and it will have shelving capacity for several thousands of volumes. The walls and shelves are of oak, and the ceiling is of a variety of hard woods, fitted in handsome designs. The room is lighted by five windows on the Clermont-avenue side, two at either end. There are also two large windows on the Green-avenue side. Under the mansard roof is a large room over the library, which can be used as a dormitory for students who are being instructed in their work. The services of a large number of the clergy for the present provision is made for all the demands of any near future. When the Bishop removes to his new residence, the old cathedral will be designated as the pro-cathedral in place of St. James's Church, and a pastor will be put in charge of the latter. Other changes will have to be made when Bishop Loughlin takes possession of his new home.

Among the numerous ornaments of the library there will be a set of seven rare and fine engravings of the famous cartoons of Raphael. They were struck off by order of William IV. of England for distribution among the nobility in Europe, and were destroyed after the copies were made. This is said to be one of very few sets in this country, and was procured by the Rev. Henry O'Loughlin, and after his death it was purchased and presented to the Bishop.

The cost of this prelate's palace is over \$100,000, a large sum for a dwelling, considering the plainness of the fifth and sixth stories, which it was intended to let in individual cities by means of caravans. The Bishop himself did not think that the diocese should divert money needed for churches and schools for the purpose of providing him with a new home, but his old friends and well-wishers, who for his sake were forced to bear the expense, were anxious to see him enjoy many years in his splendid home.

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